I. Operator Certification

It is unlawful for anyone to operate a water treatment plant, a water distribution system, a wastewater treatment plant, or a wastewater collection system serving a population equivalent to 25 or more if that person is not appropriately certified. This excludes operators of wastewater collection systems and wastewater treatment facilities which use stabilization ponds or other nonmechanical treatment processes to serve populations less than 500.

A. Direct Responsible Charge (D.R.C)

An operator who has direct responsible charge shall hold a certificate that is at least equal to the classification of the facility or system where the operator is employed.

Direct responsible charge means full and active performance of onsite operation

1. Technical support, provides direction to others,
2. On site or on call during shift operations,
3. Responsible for operation of a major segment of a facility or system.
4. Operation of a small facility or system as sole employee.

B. Becoming Certified

1. Examination

    a. Candidates must apply 15 days prior to test date,
    b. Meet education and experience requirements,
    c. Pay the $10.00 examination fee, and
    d. Pass the examination with a score of 70% or higher.

2. Reciprocity

    a. Candidates must be certified in another state by exam,
    b. Fulfill education and experience requirements, and
    c. Pay the $10.00 examination fee.

C. Education and Experience Requirements

1. High School Diploma or equivalent (GED)

Grade of Operator	Experience	D.R.C.
IA	0.5 year	---
I	1 year	---
II	3 years	1 year
III	4 years	2 years
IV	5 years	2 years

2. Post High School (minimum 2 years in related field)

Grade of Operator	Experience	D.R.C.
IA	0.5 year	---
I	1 year	---
II	2 years	1 year
III	3 years	2 years
IV	4 years	2 years

3. BS or other related 4 Year Degree

Grade of Operator	Experience	D.R.C.
IA	0.5 year	---
I	1 year	---
II	1 years	1 year
III	2 years	2 years
IV	3 years	2 years

D. Maintaining Certification

1. Renewal

   a. Certificates expire each year on the first day of July.
   b. Annual renewal fees are $5.00 per certificate.

2. Continuing Education Credits (CECs)

   These can be earned by attending training programs, seminars, workshops and schools established or officially recognized by the department.

   a. Each operator must earn 12 CECs every three years.
   b. Certified operators no longer operating within the state are exempt.

Note: You are responsible for seeing that the Division of Municipal Facilities is notified of training that has taken place so that credits may be granted.

II. Facility Classifications (general guidelines)

A. Water Treatment Plant

This refers to a facility which in some way alters the physical, chemical, or bacteriological quality of the water.

1. Systems using simple chemical addition, such as, disinfection, fluoridation, corrosion control, or sequestering:

Class IA	serving a population less than 500
Class I	serving a population of 500 to 5,000
Class II	serving a population of 5,000 to 15,000
Class III	serving a population of 15,000 or more

2. Systems using chemical softening processes and filtration:

Class II	serving a population of less than 1,000
Class III	serving a population of 1,000 to 5,000
Class IV	serving a population of 5,000 or more

3. Systems using coagulation, sedimentation, and filtration for clarification:

Class II	serving a population of less than 1,500
Class III	serving a population of 1,500 to 10,000
Class IV	serving a population of 10,000 or more

4. Systems using chemical oxidation of iron or manganese and filtration

Class II	serving a population of less than 2,000
Class III	serving a population of 2,000 to 15,000
Class IV	serving a population of 15,000 or more

B. Water Distribution System

This refers to a system which obtains, stores, and conveys water from the treatment facility to the consumer.

Class IA	serving a population of less than 500
Class I	serving a population of 500 to 1,500
Class II	serving a population of 1,500 to 15,000
Class III	serving a population of 15,000 to 50,000
Class IV	serving a population of 50,000 or more

C. Wastewater Treatment Plant

This refers to a facility used for the treatment and disposal of wastewater and the solids removed from such wastewater.

1. serving less than 10,000 persons

Class IA	Stabilization ponds serving 500 or less
Class I	Stabilization ponds serving 500 to 9,999
Class II	a) All mechanical facilities b) Mechanically aerated ponds c) Oxidation ditches
Class III	a) Activated sludge b) Trickling filter c) Rotating biological contactors d) Sludge stabilization facilities

2. serving 10,000 or more persons

Class II	Stabilization ponds
Class III	a) All mechanical facilities b) Mechanically aerated ponds c) Oxidation ditches
Class IV	a) Activated sludge b) Trickling filter c) Rotating biological contactors d) Sludge stabilization facilities

D. Wastewater Collection System

This refers to a system used to convey wastewater from the premises of a contributor to the wastewater treatment facility.

Class IA	serving a population of less than 500
Class I	serving a population of 500 to 1,500
Class II	serving a population of 1,500 to 15,000
Class III	serving a population of 15,000 to 50,000
Class IV	serving a population of 50,000 or more